



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
September 2004

Update on October 4 Video Conference, "Reading the Reports—the 2004 CRT and CRT-Alternate "

Reminder: Video conference
October 4, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Extra video conference sites have been added. At this printing, those include Billings, Colstrip, Eureka, St. Regis, Rapelje and Kalispell. Site details are online at the registration link: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/RegForms/Fall04/Index.html>

In communities where there are two sites, such as Billings and Kalispell, please go to the first site unless you are contacted by OPI.

The Power Point presentation and Interpretive Guide are online. In addition, a copy of the Interpretive Guide is included with your shipment of test results. It would be helpful for you to bring the Guide and Power Point print out with you to the training.

- ◆ Power point link: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/2004RptWorkshops.pdf>
- ◆ Interpretive Guide: http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/assessment/MontCAS_Interp_Guide_2004.pdf

The video conference will be taped and available for checkout from the Office of Public Instruction Resource Center after October 8. Please contact Raelen Williard, rwilliard@state.mt.us or 406-444-2082.

A video stream of the presentation will be on the OPI assessment website after October 8 also. The link is: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/MontCAS/>



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Assessment Information and Training Sessions at MEA/MFT and MCEL

MEA-MFT Conference, Helena, Oct. 21-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ CRT-Alternate Revision and Development, Wingate Inn. Prior registration required. For more information, contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656, jsnow@state.mt.us➤ Continuous demonstration and hands-on training of iAnalyze, web-based CRT data management tool, Oct 21 and 22, Helena High School, Room 7➤ Montana Teachers and the CRT Benchmarking Project, Thursday, Oct. 21, 10:00 am, Helena High School, Room 23➤ Assessment and AYP Update, Thursday, Oct. 21, 11:00 am, Helena High School, Room 23➤ Assessment Results and the Classroom, Thursday, Oct. 21, 3:00 pm, Helena High School, Room 23➤ Purpose and Concepts of the CRT Alternate, Friday, Oct. 22, 10:00 am, Helena Middle School, Room 128
MCEL Conference, Billings, Oct. 20-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Continuous demonstration and hands-on training of iAnalyze, web-based CRT data management tool, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm and Thursday, Oct. 21, 7:30 am - 1:30 pm, Holiday Inn, Billings Trade Center, Exhibit Hall, Booth 64

Bar Codes for Demographic Data on Criterion-Referenced Tests

Bar codes will be used for student demographic information on the 2005 CRT and CRT-Alternate. Instead of bubbling demographic information after students have taken the test in the spring, all systems will receive and use bar codes with demographic data for each student. Districts/schools will attach the bar code label to each student's answer booklet.

For students taking the CRT, all schools will provide Measured Progress a data base with the demographic information in advance of the testing window so that Measured Progress can prepare and provide the labels. This should streamline the process for test coordinators. Details about the data base and the timeline will be available in the October JUMP.

Bar codes will also be used for students taking the CRT-Alternate; however, submission of demographic information for the CRT-Alternate is earlier than for the CRT to facilitate preparation of CRT-Alternate materials. For participation in the Spring 2005 CRT-Alternate, eligible students must be registered online **October 4, 2004 through October 22, 2004**. By October 1, System Test Coordinators will receive a memo, access code, instructions, and a data collection sheet listing all the information that will be collected online.

If there are no students in your district participating in the CRT-Alt in the spring of 2005, you must still access the website in order to verify this information.

In January, Measured Progress will reopen the online registration for students who enroll after the October registration window.

CRT Reports Are Shipped

Measured Progress has shipped the system and school results of the spring 2004 administration of the criterion-referenced test (CRT). The shipments have been sent by UPS ground to system test coordinators by grade levels beginning with grade four. Systems can expect to have delivery of all grades by September 30.

As you know, the results of the CRT are only one part of the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The school and system reports include information about the CRT performance levels of students statewide. There is insufficient information in these reports to predict AYP status.

The Office of Public Instruction is compiling a list of frequently asked questions about the CRT and AYP. That list will be posted online and in JUMP newsletters. In addition, some of those questions will be addressed at the Oct. 4 "Reading the Reports" video conference. Test coordinators are encouraged to register and attend a video conference. Online registration and information are located at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/RegForms/Fall04/Index.html>

In the UPS shipments, you will receive the following:

- Paper reports for your system and for each school in your system. Samples are online on the OPI website: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/crt.html>
 - CDs, one for your system and one for each school in your system. **Please do not distribute the CDs until you get the labels and password information in a separate mailing described below.** The CDs contain the following:
 - PDF files of the paper reports in case you need to print extra copies
 - An Excel data file of your system/school data
 - iAnalyze confidential student-level linking data files (NOTE: iAnalyze is the web-based data management tool for the Criterion-referenced test (CRT))
 - Interpretive Guide for the 2004 CRT Reports
- In a separate mailing via the US postal service, test coordinators will receive a white 8x10 envelope from Measured Progress. It will contain materials and information to use with iAnalyze. The following will be enclosed:
- A memo describing iAnalyze
 - A copy of a Quick Guide for getting started using iAnalyze
 - Labels for the CD cases
 - Passwords for your system and for each school in your system

Criterion-Referenced Test Items to be Released

Items from the 2004 Criterion-Reference Test and CRT-Alternate will be online by October 2 on the OPI website

Items will be in the same order as they were on the spring 2004 test. Keys to the answers and the standard tested will be included as well as model papers and rubrics for the constructed response items. The MEA-MFT conference session "Assessment Results and the Classroom" will present strategies for using the released items to inform classroom instruction.

iAnalyze Data Management Tool

iAnalyze access is provided to every school and district by Measured Progress at no charge to your district. It is a secure, multi-tier Web application designed to give educators the ability to easily aggregate and disaggregate CRT test score data. By mail, test coordinators will receive iAnalyze information from Measured Progress. At both MEA-MFT and MCEL conferences, continuous demonstrations and hands-on training will be offered.

Looking Ahead

Training opportunities on released test items and iAnalyze are tentatively planned for January. More details will be in future *JUMP* newsletters.



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